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Item 33 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 17 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April 1996, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of resolution 5573, which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 17 April following a special meeting devoted to the consideration of the question of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under item 33 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Permanent Representative of the
United Arab Emirates
Chairman of the Arab Group

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States and entitled "Condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the means to confront it"

The Council of the League of Arab States, following a special meeting held on 17 April 1996 in order to consider the question of Israeli aggression against Lebanon,

Having heard the report by the Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs on the continuation and scope of and reasons for the Israeli aggression,

Aware of the serious repercussions which the escalation of the ongoing aggression unleashed by Israel may have for the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Lebanon as well as the entire Arab region and the peace process begun after the Peace Conference on the Middle East held in Madrid,

Taking into account the serious consequences of that aggression, which has led to the deaths of dozens and wounded hundreds of civilians, while at the same time forcing more than half a million Lebanese townspeople and villagers to flee from the south and the eastern Bekaa region,

Having been informed of the considerable damage caused to basic economic infrastructures and archaeological and historical sites, which were bombarded by Israeli land, sea and air units in various regions of Lebanon,

Considering that this aggression poses a grave threat to the security of the region as well as international peace and security and constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of international and humanitarian law,

Recalling its previous resolutions which reaffirmed the right of Lebanon to obtain reparations for the damage, destruction and the loss of human life which Israel's repeated acts of aggression have inflicted on the civilian population and infrastructures,

Recalling also all the resolutions which the Arab summit conferences and the Council of the League of Arab States have adopted in order to express their solidarity with the Lebanese Government with a view to putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and supporting all the measures taken by that Government to halt that occupation in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978),

Proceeding on the basis of the principles of international legality set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Proceeding also on the basis of the Charter of the League of Arab States and the pacts for joint Arab action,

1. (a) Strongly condemns the continuation of the brutal aggression which Israel has unleashed against Lebanese territory and which infringes the sovereignty of Lebanon, the security of its citizens and its territory as well as the inviolability of its airspace and territorial waters and has led to the destruction of archaeological sites, infrastructures and basic installations in various parts of the country;

(b) Condemns Israel, which by unleashing that aggression, has violated the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and is compromising the peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978);

2. Demands the immediate cessation of the Israeli aggression which is continuing against Lebanon, the halting of the operations aimed at destruction and of the forced mass exodus which Israel has brought about on a very large scale throughout the country, as well as the return of the refugees driven from their towns and villages by that aggression;

3. Reaffirms that the Arab countries are maintaining their solidarity with Lebanon in the struggle against Israeli aggression and demands that the Security Council condemn that aggression and force Israel to implement resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory;

4. Reaffirms the right of the Lebanese people to resist Israeli occupation in Lebanese territory in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly their right to self-defence against the occupier, and supports the right of the Lebanese people to demand that Israel provide compensation for the loss of human life and material damage caused by Israeli occupation and aggression;

5. (a) Decides to provide the Lebanese Government with the material and financial support for ensuring the speedy return to their towns and villages of the refugees who have been forced to flee their homes by the cowardly Israeli aggression and calls upon Arab and international humanitarian organizations and institutions to help Lebanon, on an emergency basis and by all possible means, to cope with the tragic situation and the destruction caused by that aggression;

(b) Calls upon the Security Council to oblige Israel to make the necessary compensation for the loss of human life and the destruction of installations and infrastructures as a result of the Israeli aggression;

6. Entrusts the Secretary-General with the task of monitoring the situation and coordinating, as necessary, action by the Arab States with regard to specific measures to be adopted, inter alia, immediate contacts to be made with the sponsors of the Peace Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the members of the Security Council and the presidency of the Council of Europe in order to bring about the immediate cessation of Israeli aggression, strive to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), and put a definitive end to the Israeli occupation;

7. Considers that the session is open and decides that the Secretary-General will report to the Council when he deems appropriate.